

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are now pending in the application. Claim 1 is cancelled herein. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) of Claims 2-29 in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

OBJECTION TO THE CLAIMS

The Examiner requested that the number 4 be deleted from the dependency of Claim 5. Applicants amended Claim 5 into independent form and therefore this objection is now moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Applicants traverse the rejection of Claims 5 and 15-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraph. As the Examiner is well aware, support for amendments can be provided by the specification, the claims and the drawings. The claims recite the restriction that the winding end cap assembly is not located between the winding wire and the radial side surfaces of the stator core. The drawings clearly show this relationship.

In FIGs. 3 and 6A, for example, the end cap assembly is shown. One end cap is located adjacent to one axial end surface. Another end cap is located adjacent to an opposite axial end surface. The inner winding retainer sections extend between the opposite end caps. When the end cap assembly is assembled with the stator core, the inner winding retainers are located along a radially inner surface of the stator core but not along the radial side surfaces of the stator core. Therefore, when the winding wire

is wound around the end caps and the stator core, the end cap assembly is located between the winding wire and the stator core at the axial ends of the stator core but not along the radial sides of the stator core.

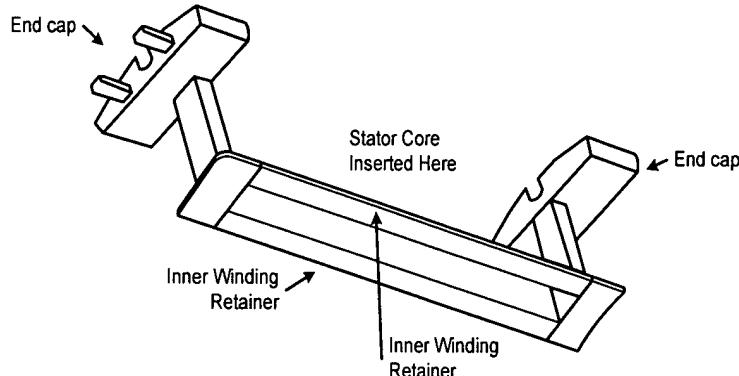


FIG. 3

In FIG. 6A, it can be readily observed that the end caps abut axial end surfaces of the stator core. The inner winding retainer abuts a radially inner surface of the stator core. When winding wire is wound around the end cap assembly and the stator core, the end cap assembly is located between the winding wire and the stator core only at the axial end surfaces of the stator core. As the winding wire passes along the radial side surfaces of the stator core, the end cap assembly is not located between winding wire and the stator core.

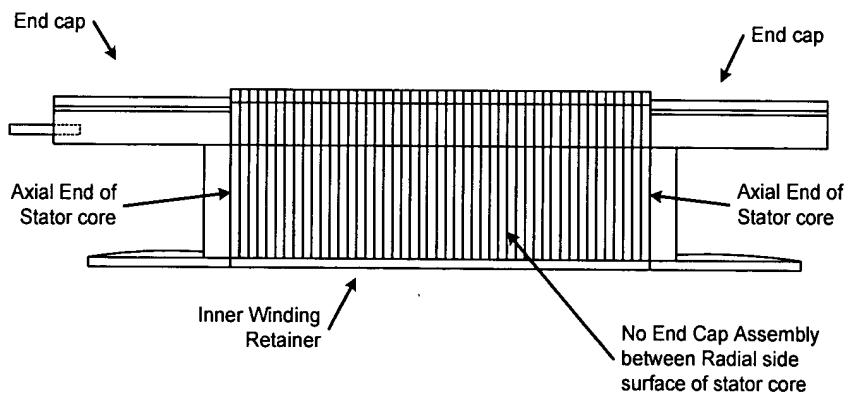


FIG. 6A

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections under

35 U.S.C. §112 are now moot.

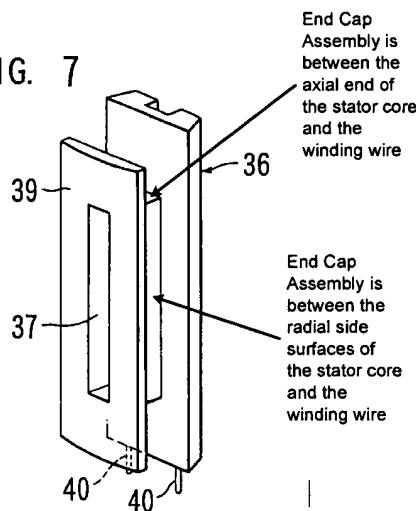
REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5, 11-12, and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Suzuki et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,166,468). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In Claims 5 and 29, the end cap assembly is not located between the winding wire and radial side surfaces of the stator segment core. The end cap assembly of Suzuki et al. is located between the winding wire and the radial side surfaces of the stator core. Therefore, Claims 5 and 29 are allowable for this reason.

As can be seen in Figure 7 of Suzuki et al. provided below, when the winding wire is wound around the end cap assembly and the stator core in Suzuki et al., the end cap assembly is located between the winding wire and the stator core at the axial ends of the stator core, which is similar to the present invention. However, the end cap assembly is also located between the winding wire and the stator core along the radial side surfaces of the stator core, which is not present in the end cap assembly of the present invention.

FIG. 7



The location of the end cap assembly between the winding wire and the radial side surface of the stator core reduces the area that is available for winding wire, which reduces slot fill.

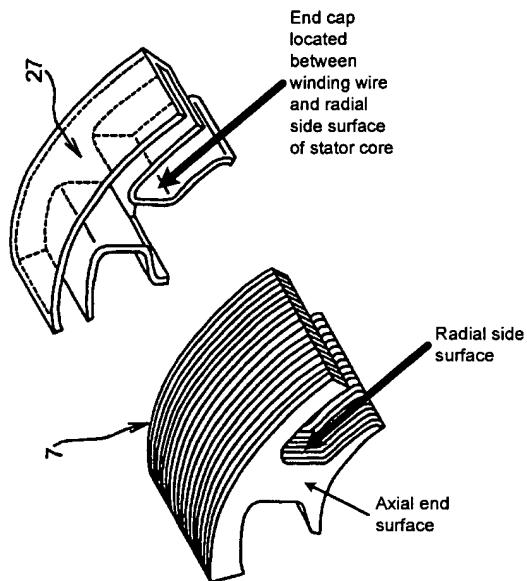
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that Claims 5 and 29 are in condition for allowance. Claims 2-14 are directly or indirectly dependent upon Claim 5 and are therefore allowable for the same reasons.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 15, 20, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kazama et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,226,856) in view of Trago et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,806,169).

With respect to Claims 15, 20 and 25, Kazama et al. does not show, teach or suggest using an end cap assembly that is not located between the winding wire and radial side surfaces of the stator segment core. The end cap assembly of Kazama et al. is somewhat similar to Suzuki et al because the end cap assembly is located between the winding wire and the radial side surfaces of the stator core.

As can be seen from FIG. 16 of Kazama et al. set forth below, the end cap assembly is located between the stator core and the winding wire along radial side surfaces of the stator core.



For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that Claims 15, 20 and 25 are in allowable form. Claims 16-19 are directly or indirectly dependent upon Claim 15 and are also allowable for the same reasons. Claims 21-24 are directly or indirectly dependent upon Claim 20 and are also allowable for the same reasons. Claims 26-28 are directly or indirectly dependent upon Claim 25 and are also allowable for the same reasons.

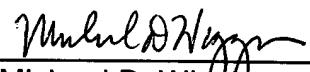
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is

believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 10/15/03

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